

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph because the term A1 is "vague." Claims 1 and 12 are amended above to clearly point out that cell A1 is the top leftmost cell. Such amending overcomes the rejection and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 12 are also amended above to clearly require each of the steps of the self-replication operation are automatically performed. This is to emphasize what is intended by the recitation of automatically performing a self-replication operation in claims 1 and 12 as originally filed. No new matter is entered.

Claims 1 - 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Patent 5,463,724) in view of Barnes "10 Minute Guide to Windows 3.1." Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection for the following reasons.

Anderson and Barnes do not describe, either separately or when taken together, all of the steps required by Applicants' claim 1. In column 10, lines 58 - column 11, line 30, Anderson describes manually copying and pasting a block of cells from one location on a spreadsheet page to another location. Relative and absolute cell addressing is employed as was known in the art (at the time Anderson was filed 1995). Anderson also describes in these cited lines, use of a "model copy technique". With model copying enabled, absolute references adjust to the new location of the referenced cell so that the user does not have to manually edit each formula. This manual model copy technique was well known and included as a standard feature of spreadsheet software

products by the time of Applicant's filed invention, 2001. See Applicant's background art section, page 4, lines 19 - 30.

Anderson also describes in column 10, lines 18 - 31, a "group mode" for changing multiple pages simultaneously. Particular pages are selected for a group. Then when group mode is active, information entered in a cell on one page of the group is propagated to the same cell in other pages of the group.

Each of these two cited descriptions have limitations which are overcome in Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 as amended above. Anderson's "model copy technique" is a manual process whereas claim 1 requires an automatic self-replication operation. Anderson's "group mode" is limited to propagation to the same cell in other pages. Claim 1 requires at least two ranges having different addresses relative to the top leftmost cell of the respective page on which each range is located. For example, the two ranges could be on the same page. Furthermore, claim 1 specifically excludes the "group mode" described by Anderson by requiring different relative addresses for at least two ranges. Anderson's group mode does not describe ranges because there is no need to define ranges, i.e., information entered in a cell is propagated to the same cell on other pages in the group. Claim 1 requires ranges to be defined.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Anderson in view of Barnes because neither, nor when taken in combination, describes the automatic self-replication operation in ranges of cells having different relative addresses as required by claim 1. Independent claim 12 recites identical steps as is allowable for the same reason.

All of the other claims depend directly or indirectly on

allowable claim 1 and are therefore also allowable.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allowance of the claims are amended above.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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